

## I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Running Minutes

Google Drive Links for Information Sharing (established Dec 2018)

The main folder – I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group is here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a2QoX-V7GJyMgvjrj\\_1nGl6lloleMgMI?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a2QoX-V7GJyMgvjrj_1nGl6lloleMgMI?usp=sharing)

The Cold transport – Styrofoam coolers and ice-gel packs is here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=12khnAY6RpDxkpnkRxSqSD3PxT8cSXuzk>

The ACT Label resources is here:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IpKu1k0SFKvSDCuWSe3PTADvWB\\_y-wcJ](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IpKu1k0SFKvSDCuWSe3PTADvWB_y-wcJ)

**Please scroll down to see all meeting minutes in consecutive order, or click the links below to jump to a specific date.**

[July 11, 2019 Meeting Notes](#)

[May 16, 2019 Meeting Notes](#)

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[February 20, 2019 Meeting Notes](#)

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**January 17, 2017 2PM**

**Ilyssa, Kelly, Kathy, Ralph, Star, Amorette, Phil**

Agenda

1. Discuss the vision, goals, and objectives of the group (see attached)
2. Share and review any purchasing language that members are aware of.

Call notes: [Action Items highlighted in blue](#)

Purchasing language

Sandia has sustainability language in their Just In Time purchasing arrangements, but not for packaging and landfill diversion

Cleveland Clinic does not have purchasing language

CU Boulder has office supply language. [UC system has procurement - Amorette to find this to share](#)

[Emory to ask intern to benchmark SPLC and AASHE for procurement sustainability language in contracts and P.O.s, as it relates to landfill diversion](#)

SPLC

Phil has been contacted by SPLC in the past re labs; Kathy has reached out to Jason Pierce at SPLC re labs

SPLC Presentation in May (Denver)- Ilyssa and Kelly have submitted a proposal for a panel

Kathy would be happy to co-present at SPLC, but has to go to D.C. on Wednesday of the Summit. If anyone else wants to contribute, please let Ilyssa or Kelly know.

Vision/Goals/Objectives Discussion

Value of working group

- To share the effort to try to identify solutions in landfill diversion in research and healthcare lab procurement

Solid waste metrics from research lab sector

- Nature reporter was interested in quantity of lab waste
- [UCSB has waste audits of buildings, including lab buildings - municipal waste. Has data to share.](#)
- UCSB has biohazard waste data as weights only; so does CC.
- Sandia has done waste audits of all buildings, including lab and office buildings; also municipal

- Might be easier to look at Procurement records to determine how much is purchased and disposed of. Is there a metric/methodology we could replicate? Practice Greenhealth/healthcare sector - may be a good resource.
- Kimberly Clark and Fisher have done audits and have metrics. [Star to ask her reps for those data.](#)
- [Ilyssa to look into Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council data](#)

Future brainstorming session re: metrics we need to make the case for our work

Group agrees that fact finding is a good first step, that might be occurring simultaneously with other steps

### I2SL Meeting

Phil hopes we will present on working group progress at I2SL in Boston

- Potential to include students and researchers is high
- Create deadlines and goals leading up to the I2SL meeting
- Could present benchmarking work, state of sustainability in sector, and procurement language
- Think about what we want to do at the meeting. Half day facilitated session with suppliers & manufacturers
  - o Sustainability staff members on the panel and let the audience ask questions and drive the importance of this
  - o Start with LabCon, New England BioLabs, Millipore-Sigma who have sustainability commitments and have been to I2SL before
    - Address disconnects between what suppliers are doing and what is helpful for labs

[Kathy will reach out to the University Alliance to see if more people are interested in joining our working group.](#)

Partnership with Healthcare Without Harm - their lab group is based in Boston, Ilyssa spoke with Bill and Paul last summer - got the impression that they are mostly focused on energy, but willing to keep an eye out for opportunities.

Our group has a webpage on I2SL website - thanks to Phil for setting this up.

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**May 4, 2017**

**Marcus, Erin Pittorino, Allen Doyle, Ilyssa Gordon, Phil Wirdzeck**

- I. Invitation to I2SL Conference Landfill Diversion Workshop

- a. NIH program for supplier take-back program, Captain Ed Fister. Invite him to join our working group and also attend I2SL. Kathy will try to meet with him when she's at NIH next week.
  - b. Kathy to post letter on the Green Labs Planning Google group and get signatures and feedback
  - c. Add LabCon to the invitation
  - d. Ask Allison what her progress is on reaching out to suppliers & manufacturers
- II. I2SL Conference Session
- a. Overview presentation by Kathy on why this work is important
  - b. Presentation on ice packs by Kathy's assistant
  - c. Invite Ed Fister to present on his supplier take-back at NIH
  - d. Panel discussion or facilitated discussion with suppliers who can attend
- III. SPLC Conference
- a. Connect with Susan Lyons from RPN and \_\_\_\_ Culvers
  - b. Ask SPLC to distribute the letter to suppliers re: I2SL?
  - c. Talk about transparency re: what is sustainable about products, rather than rely on development of a certification or greenwashing from company.
  - d. Connect with UC delegates
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**July 27, 2017**

**Attendees: Ilyssa Gordon, Star Scott, Phil Wirdzek, Amorette Getty, Kathy Ramirez Aguilar, Kelly O'Day Weisinger**

Focus area proposal: This is to concentrate our productivity towards progress in between the monthly calls, leading up to and beyond the October I2SL conference; plan to continue our relationship with suppliers that we are building up for the conference. Benefits of having focus areas is to make our working group a consolidated place for this purchaser and supplier info, identify gaps, and chart progress toward ultimate working group goals.

- Ilyssa and Kelly will facilitate each Focus area
- Ask for members to join one or more Focus area
- Start by members offering information and thoughts on what you know through interviews and survey

Focus area: Purchaser side – benchmark purchaser efforts at landfill diversion

- Star Scott volunteered for this group
- Ilyssa Gordon will facilitate this group
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Focus area: Supplier side – benchmark of supplier options and existing supplier strengths

- Working group could start by interviewing the conference panelists to understand existing efforts.
- We hope this is the beginning of a partnership to engage with them moving forward beyond the conference.
- Kelly to facilitate this group
  - o Set up calls with panelists and include Kathy
- Kathy to join this group

Focus area: Conference Planning – overlap from the two other areas or independent participation

Want to work on these between now and conference so that we can present what we know and target questions to panelists with current state of affairs

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\***

Please email Ilyssa and Kelly to let us know which focus area(s) you would like to participate on.

Conference Update from Phil

- 4 commitments for the panel: Jeffrey from Millepore-Sigma, Rachael Relph from Thermo Fisher Scientific, Nate Belke Sustainability Manager of VWR, and Andrew Larson from AdGene.
- Kathy also wants to try to get a commitment from NEB.
- Getting information ahead of time to pose what we think we understand about the market is a good idea
- Suggested having a conference call ahead of time with panelists so everyone knows what to expect - prime them with our questions. We can get aware ahead of time what their efforts are. Mid-late September for conference call with panelists.
- Session is Tuesday morning from 8:00am – 10:00am. 3 presentations at 20 minutes (hold questions for later) each already lined up. Hopefully we can have 45 minutes for the panel.
- **Panelists are** the suppliers from industry; Speakers presentations at the beginning of the 2h session are purchasers/university/academic side.
- Panel questions can be developed after benchmarking work and interviews with panelists are complete. Plan to keep a running list for now. **\*\*ACTION ITEM - please send Kelly any potential panel questions**
- Goal of conference - engage with suppliers, create dialogue, show suppliers that this is so important to us as purchasers, that there is a greater cause out there.

Invitation letter to attend the conference

- One version saying thank you for agreeing to attend to those who have committed (Phil sent current draft) **\*\*ACTION ITEM - please give feedback on this letter to Phil**
- Open letter to all other suppliers & manufacturers inviting to attend and/or join our work beyond the conference (Phil to work on)
- Essence of both letters is the same as what Kathy has already shared with the greenlabs google group and gotten signature commitments for.

Kelly notes for Ilyssa discussion on plan moving forward:

- Mine notes from last year's I2SL conference and follow-up

- Intern to research green schools listserv, literature review of publications
  - Interview each LDWG member
  - Request interviews from broader GL community
  - Develop survey for people to fill out
    - o Ask for supplier & manufacturer name and contact information, and permission to invite to join the effort
    - o Ask if they would be interested in working with our group
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### **August 31, 2017**

Conference session is C-3 with three presentations as part of a 2-hour session

- 20 minutes each (60 minutes total) + 10 minutes of consolidated questions for presenters
- 45 minutes for panel, to begin at 9:10am sharp

Ilyssa will re-send the final version of the thank you letter to Phil. Phil to send the letter out, thanking the panelists for serving on the panel. Phil should copy Kelly, Ilyssa, Kathy, Star, Allison, and Allen on the email/letter.

- Ilyssa and Kelly will follow up with the panelists to invite them to interview with us ahead of time.
- This and the benchmarking information will inform the short presentation that Kathy makes and the questions we pose & facilitate.
- Make sure panelists know that they won't be presenting with slides, but will be participating in a facilitated discussion.

VWR is not attending the conference. They are being bought out and restricted??

- Kelly is going to send a note or call VWR as a customer to express disappointment. Others are encouraged to do the same.
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### **I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group**

**December 7, 2017**

**Brie Fulton (Lawrence Berkeley National lab), Ilyssa Gordon (Cleveland Clinic), Allison Paradise (My Green Lab), Star Scot (UGA), Kelly Weisinger (Emory), Kathryn Ramirez Aguilar (UC Boulder)**

- 1) Follow-up from I2SL Conference Panel (30 min)

- a) Feedback - how did it go
    - This conversation is new to many people from corporate sector, including the panelists
    - Not long enough to dive deeper, but the desire is there
    - Good to take time to get everyone on the same page; good start to lay groundwork
    - Not too much product pitching
    - Gave a good platform, but next time should ask them harder questions
  - b) Opportunities: make a follow-up plan to keep companies engaged in the conversation
    - a. Went well for suppliers & manufacturers, so we think they would be willing to engage again
    - b. Companies said that they need to hear from the end user, and sustainability never comes up from end user
      - (1) Poll researchers? ACT label has similar challenge. What does supplier survey look like?
      - (2) Look to other purchasing sectors with successful institutional sustainability
    - c. Opportunity to elevate the social justice conversation in the I2SL community. ACT label doesn't include social justice, but could in the future.
    - d. More collaboration with SPLC, RPN, and other purchasing organizations
    - e. ACT label requested by purchasers. Products adopt ACT label. ACT label evolve to include other criteria like total environmental impact factors. Future state of ACT 1, ACT 2, ACT 3 when enough products and judgment are present.
2. Focus areas for the Working group (30 min)
- a) Review focus areas and roles: Purchaser side (solid waste metrics, existing diversion/recycling options)/ Supplier side (benchmark product options, existing supplier strengths)
    - i) Purchaser: Survey of scientists to find out what is important
    - ii) Supplier: How to engage with suppliers between now and next year's I2SL summit?
    - iii) Should we focus on specific items, like foam coolers and gel packs?
    - iv) How can we support the ACT label?
      - (1) Tell manufacturers that it is important to us. 15 say they want to adopt label.
      - (2) Link ACT label into Procurement, get them to recognize it and request it as a preferred ecolabel.
      - (3) Incorporate into e-procurement website
      - (4) [act.mygreenlab.com](http://act.mygreenlab.com)
  - b) Report on progress to date
    - i) Purchaser - Waste Diversion Survey - led by Star with a one sheet summary - will post to webpage
    - ii) Supplier - Kelly and Kathy interviewed all of the panelists by phone beforehand.
    - iii) Both: Kelly's intern composed a memo with purchaser/supplier research/benchmarking
  - c) Determine next steps - ACTION ITEMS
    - i) Purchaser: How do we bring in the people who identified on the survey that they want to be involved?
    - ii) Purchaser: develop a survey for researchers to find out how sustainability ranks in importance to them.
    - iii) Supplier: Follow up with representatives from companies on how they think the conference session went. Report back on next call.
    - iv) Allison to give webinar to the group on the ACT label.
    - v) Ask procurement at your institution to add ACT label to list of acceptable labels.
    - vi) Kathy to continue to work on gel/ice pack/foam cooler landfill diversion.
    - vii) Ask Phil about where conference presentations are available on the website.
    - viii) Star to post survey data onto Box

- ix) Kelly to post live benchmarking memo onto Box. Group to keep it live by adding information when possible.

Key takeaways:

1. Since lab suppliers have a large portfolio of interest areas, our group should work to support ACT label, which also covers a diverse array of product lines and sustainability aspects.
  2. Bridging the gap: Some suppliers want to hear from the scientists that product sustainability is important, but we know scientists don't have time/capacity to verbalize this, even though it is a priority. Institutions with Green Labs programs are therefore the voice of the scientists on this, in addition to advancing institutional goals for sustainability in purchasing and landfill diversion. A survey of scientists, with appropriately worded questions, will give Institutional Green Labs groups and our group evidence of what scientists want so we can bridge this gap.
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**January 30, 2018**

**Phil, Ilyssa, Allison, Kelly, Star, Kathy, Marcus**

Agenda:

1. Share memo/request to participate in focus areas – Ilyssa - 5 mins
  - a. When you have time, please read and provide feedback on the "welcome message" memo that Ilyssa drafted to organize ourselves. This is meant to clearly state how interested individuals could engage with our group, and is not meant for widespread recruitment of new members. Let us know if you have feedback! There are two versions, one for current Working Group members and one for interested WG members when they reach out to us.
2. Discuss survey of researchers (Purchaser side) – Ilyssa – 5 mins
  - a. Survey of researchers to make the case to suppliers that end users care about landfill diversion
    - i. Kathy raised the point to include a social justice question
    - ii. Many of the suppliers have their own labs and are also end -users
  - b. How should we publicize this survey to get widespread participation?
    - i. MGL did a market assessment that asked a similar question. MGL partnered with suppliers and used their mailing list, and asked them to send to their customers. Gave a prize and received over 1,000 responses.
      1. Could avoid skew if made clear it is sent from a group of non-profits (MGL and I2SL).
      2. Can specify that suppliers send to "end users" only, not just procurement contacts.
      3. Allison will send us her market assessment as a model, and so we know what MGL has already asked. We probably want to ask more detailed questions than what was asked about waste.

4. She is happy to help us design a survey and dovetail toward our end goals, and let us copy and paste what we want
      - ii. Ask for it to be published in a magazine?
      - iii. We should send it to our own researchers at our own institutions, and take info to Procurement to change the game based on what our researchers want.
      - iv. Should we be getting procurement people from our individual institutions involved in this conversation and working group? Is there a way to include purchasing professionals in the I2SL conference panel discussion? Let's make this an agenda item for the next call.
  3. Discuss follow-up with suppliers (Supplier side) – Kelly - 5 mins
    - a. Kelly will send list of questions for following up with last year's panelists. Please provide feedback if you have any.
  4. Discuss I2SL meeting call for proposals – Phil - 5 mins
    - a. Move to next call, due to time constraints.
  5. Allison presentation on ACT label and discussion – Allison – 20 minutes plus time for discussion
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#### **April 19, 2018 I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Agenda & Notes**

**Ilyssa Gordon, Star Scott, Phil W., Kelly Weisinger, Bree (Lawrence-Berkeley Labs), Maya (Athersis, Cleveland)**

##### 1. Purchaser side - Update on Survey of Researchers

a. Allison agreed to let us add on three questions to the end of a Freezer survey she was sending out through MGL. Survey was announced through the Freezer Challenge at the beginning of March and went out to Green Labs planning group in early April and will be open until June 1 (tentative)

b. Questions that were included:

1. Assuming NO compromise in performance or quality, how important is it to you to purchase lab products that are:
  - a. Reusable? (1-5 scale; not important to very important)
  - b. Recyclable/compostable? (1-5 scale; not important to very important)
  - c. Made of recycled materials (either post-consumer or post-industrial)? (1-5 scale: not important to very important)
  - d. Made in a factory that is focused on sustainability? (no waste facility, zero-carbon, etc.) (1-5 scale: not important to very important)
2. Do you feel your personal values concerning sustainability are represented by your institutional policies and procurement? Yes, No

3. Do you feel limited in any of the following ways in your efforts to be more sustainable in your research? (choose all that apply)

- a. Lack of institutional support (culture, procurement, policies)
- b. Financially limited
- c. Availability of recycling streams or facilities
- d. Availability of alternative sustainable options or products
- e. I'm not in charge of ordering for my lab
- f. I don't feel limited

c. Working on a survey version to send out at our home institutions; also to include a social justice question.

d. Feedback on the survey questions is welcome.

2. Supplier Side - Update on follow-up with 2017 panelists

a. Rachael Relph from Thermo Fisher connected with HPRC

How should we engage with suppliers at the 2018 conference, and encourage them to attend?

- When ready, share results of current survey and results of last year's survey
- Provide shared top 5 items lab users struggle with
- Other ideas are welcome

Reminder – living benchmarking document on Box folder to update

Next meeting - "what we know" update with survey results and analysis?

3. WG membership/structure update

a. WG membership interest form – coming soon!

4. I2SL 2018 Meeting involvement

a. Kelly and Ilyssa submitted an abstract centered on the progress of our WG so far and continuous shaping of the conversation between laboratory professionals and industry

Phil offered a 90 minute session for the Landfill Diversion WG - IOG and KW to draft outline of session

NC State, Duke, and UNC are very involved in this year's conference - an AM panel re lab design will have research scientists - consider asking the same group to join us in some way for our session

- Send survey to three institutions and present these results in our session - this will make our work more meaningful locally
- After we have our next WG call with preliminary results of the surveys, Phil to include in conversations with key local institutions

Lab waste audits - consider to include in the 90 minute session

- Lawrence-Berkeley Labs has lab waste audit data
- UGA has lab waste audit data

#### 5. Other items

- MGL template for using ACT label is available to send to Vendors and be used by purchasers
- Star involved in EDF Webinar, including ACT label
- Ilyssa was at Medical Society Consortium “Climate & Health Solutions Conference” and answered questions about lab sustainability - highlighting I2SI and MGL work.

6. next WG meeting - Will send doodle poll for last week of May; meeting will focus on What we Know from Supplier side and Purchaser side.
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#### **May 30, 2018 – Ilyssa, Kelly, Allison, Star, Marcus, Allen, Maya**

##### 1) What we know – purchaser side

- Ilyssa gave a summary of purchaser survey about recycling and landfill diversion. Reaction is that recycling rates seem very high. We think because the survey respondents are primarily members of the Green Labs Planning Google group, so we don't have a representative sample of all labs. We are actively trying to find more avenues through which to send the survey, in addition to the questions at the end of the My Green Lab equipment survey.

##### 2) Brainstorm the communications triangle: sustainability professionals – lab end users – suppliers

- MGL started a change.org petition which has been successful in person, when they bring to various conferences; less successful as an online tool.
- Procurement officers are also part of the triangle/rectangle. Bench workers need to be heard by Procurement and by suppliers.
  - UC updated Procurement policy: 15% of quality points for bid reviews need to come from sustainability criteria.
- Need fresh and persuasive testimonials and a balanced communication strategy

Emphasize to suppliers that procurements officers and sustainability professionals are part of the “customer” (not just the end user).

- Present what we know to SPLC and ask for their help with the communications rectangle, especially as pertains to purchasing/procurement.

- Can I2SL add training for Procurement officers?

### 3) What we know – supplier side

- Kelly presented notes from conversation with Rachel Relph of Thermo Fisher.
- VWR Rep told Star that they were not willing to help with hard to recycle items like Pipette tips. Even #1 “Green Packs” (Manufactured by Mettler-Toledo) aren’t being accepted per Athersis.
- Sustainable packaging goals are more clear. Can we get together and sign something that says we commit to a foam-free supply chain by 2025 that conveys exactly what we want and how suppliers need to help us?
- How can we recognize and celebrate those suppliers that are doing good things?
  - Create innovation challenges like high product-to-packaging ratios. This WG can develop challenges for each year and have a stepwise sequence to create, advance, target, review process, recognition & awards.
  - Leverage the ACT label: increase \_\_\_\_% of product line each year with ACT label. Then increase to \_\_\_\_% of certain type of product ACT labeled.
  - At I2SL conference, create a recognition program and endorsement by I2SL for suppliers and purchasing institution.
  - Plan to follow up in a small group for those interested in joining Allison, Allen, Ilyssa, to discuss this further.

### 4) Kelly reminded the group of the working list of all known supplier takeback programs & sustainability commitments. Please add to this document located in the Working Group Box folder.

- Some discussion about whether or not we should create a list of suppliers and manufacturers on the “naughty” list that institutions have trouble working with. Consensus was to add to this document for now because it is not a public document, and to revisit whether or not we want to create a public “dirty dozen” list.

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## August 8, 2018 1PM I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Notes

Ilyssa, Kelly, Phil, Star, Allen, Darlene, Maya, Marcus

1. Purchaser Side - Ilyssa
  - a. My Green labs survey went out in early March 2018; closed in July.
    - i. 248 respondents - **Need to clarify from Allison who it went out to**
    - ii. Results sent to the WG by email; **need to see about posting to our webpage**

- iii. Ilyssa reviewed the responses from the three questions:
  - 1. Assuming NO compromise in performance or quality, how important is it to you to purchase lab products that are: reusable? recyclable? made of recycled materials (either post-consumer or post-industrial)? energy-efficient? made in a factory that is focused on sustainability (e.g. zero-waste, zero-carbon, etc)?
  - 2. Do you feel your personal values concerning sustainability are represented by your institutional policies and procurement? Y/N
  - 3. Do you feel limited in any of the following ways in your efforts to be more sustainable in your research? Please choose all that apply.
    - Lack of institutional support (e.g. culture, procurement, policies)
    - Financially limited
    - Availability of recycling streams or facilities
    - Availability of alternative sustainable options or products
    - I'm not in charge of ordering for my lab
    - I don't feel limited
    - Sustainability is not important to me
- b. Purchaser side group will meet to discuss sending the survey to our institutions (and possibly AIHA, clinical lab professional group, other?) and discuss addition of a social justice question - [follow up with Kathy on this.](#)
- 2. ACT label recognition – Allen
  - a. To recognize at the I2SL Annual Meeting who is already working on green lab procurement.
  - b. Survey /questionnaire in google docs is nearly complete
    - i. plan to finalize by 8/10; post to groups 8/13-8/24; close and collect responses 8/29.
  - c. Sending it to: Greenlabs google group; Green schools group, I2SL members, My green Labs, PGH, SPLC
  - d. [Work on a plan as to how to follow up with respondents.](#)
- 3. Supplier Side – Kelly working on using the results of the purchaser surveys and the supplier interviews to map and identify alignments and gaps between the purchaser and supplier challenges and opportunities. These results will ideally help the WG prioritize next steps, and inform materials for the presentation at the I2SL conference.
- 4. I2SL Conference planning
  - WG meeting at conference (Tues 5:45-6:45) - Kathy's BETR Grants/Univ Alliance group is meeting at this time - our group needs to find a different time and let Phil and WG know.
  - Involvement of local participants - Phil updated on this.
- 5. Star announced CSHEMA meeting proposal deadline 8/17 for Nov 2018 meeting in ATL; also sent email followup with details to the WG for those interested in participating in this important discussion with our EH&S colleagues.

**November 5, 2018 2PM**

**Ilyssa, Kelly, Star, Maya, Christina G, Jen B, Phil**

Agenda: Review themes and ideas coming out of the I2SL annual meeting.

1. Information sharing
2. Projects
3. Conversation with suppliers

Call notes: [Action Items highlighted in blue](#)

Discussion of themes that came out of the I2SL conference at the presentation and the breakfast.

### Theme - Information Sharing

Start with making what we are doing in the WG more accessible - Q: why do we want to share our info - for communication among ourselves in the group or to share with others? A: we want to be able to direct people to a single place as a resource on certain topics that we are working on as a WG.

Share our slides from conference - we have done this through the regular means through I2SL

Kathy has a weebly for BETR grants - what other options are out there?

Phil will check if we can promote our WG activities on the I2SL linked in group. Suggestions of other formats included Google Drive (many votes for this since it is ubiquitous) and slack; our content is currently housed within the I2SL WG webpage and on Box thru Emory. *Most agreed on Google Drive.* Phil confirmed that we could link to this from I2SL webpage; we would also be able to direct people to it when new content is added with a highlight email to the Green Lab Google group. [Ilyssa will set up a folder in Google drive.](#)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a2QoX-V7GJyMgvjrj\\_1nGI6lloleMgMI?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a2QoX-V7GJyMgvjrj_1nGI6lloleMgMI?usp=sharing)

### Theme - projects we could do

ACT label organize/formalize procurement conversation and end user conversation; could also ask the 12 institutional ACT label recognizees from 2018 to write up a story/case study highlighting how they've been incorporating the ACT label. Then we can have step by step resources, as well as inspirational stories. This will also be a resource to direct those interested in adopting the ACT label, as future I2SL recognition will be by nomination.

Animal bedding composting - good for Emory and CU Boulder to summarize as a case study - UVA and Emory person can have a goal to get it into IACUC Guidelines

Agreement that case studies are a good idea as projects; probably avoid "recycling" focused ones since other groups do this and so dependent on individual contracts and region. Start with these two (ACT and animal bedding) then move on from there.

[Please let us know if you are interested in working on ACT-label related activities within the working group so we can get a subgroup together to work on this.](#)

### Theme - conversation with suppliers

Focus on cold transport - ice packs and Styrofoam coolers

Accumulate case studies of local reuse/ recycling - write a report of the problem

Purchasing - language - not realistic

Collect social economic health environmental impacts on EPS and gel packs - tell the story of the problem better; Show how it is dangerous; make an emotional story that will resonate - needed bc we don't have good speaking points on this yet. Look to other countries - banned - carcinogen?

There was a lot of support for continuing to move ahead on this topic with a collection of the science/data behind the problem and capturing the emotional story together to make a unified message.

Q: If we made a template email to share with end-users about how to ask suppliers to stop using it - what do the suppliers want to hear specifically? A: we don't know for sure, we can ask, but the bottom line is that we need to accumulate the info that is out there into one place, one legitimate and fact-based story and share that. emphasize "time is ticking" with reference to 11.5 years IPCC.

Discussion about petitions or change.org - are they effective? they are an easy link and single click; Allison has one for ACT label - 74 people signed, but she had mentioned she get more sign ups at meetings - maybe we can pair up with her on this issue. Those at non-profits may not be able to sign/create one due to conflict of interest and institutional policies. Would be best if it came from or was endorsed by prominent scientists (Star suggested [Jenna Jambeck](#) at UGA); Phil suggested the angle about taking up space and that is costly. Need to get photos of the stacked coolers.

Agreement to do some research to get the facts and create a story, then figure out how to spread the word.

[Research on Styrofoam](#)

[Research on ice/gel packs](#)

[submit photos and internal data](#)

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### **January 11, 2019 2:30 PM I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Notes**

Attendees: Phil Wirdzek, Ilyssa Gordon, Kelly Weisinger, Christina Greever, Christine Alencar, Star Scott, Alison Paradise, Jennifer Ballew

Agenda:

1. Update on Information sharing - website, google drives, I2SL Linked In group
2. Project progress reports
  - a. Animal bedding composting
  - b. ACT label promotion
3. Cold Transport data collection update

Call notes: [Action Items highlighted in blue](#)

1. Update on Information sharing - website, google drives, I2SI LinkedIn group

- a. Kelly gave an overview of the I2SL web page and updates that are periodically made. [The WG's presentation will be uploaded after today's meeting, along with the notes from today's meeting.](#)
- 2. Project progress reports
  - a. Animal bedding composting - defer to discuss at a future meeting
  - b. ACT label promotion - Alison Paradise provided an updated from the MGL ACT label side:
    - i. Two new programs launched: ACTivists for suppliers and for purchasers. Alison invited everyone on WG to join the purchaser group.
    - ii. MGL is working with LabCon to label all pipette tips and conical tubes with the ACT label. Interest from Corning and other companies as a result of the LabCon work.
    - iii. VWR will not participate in the program yet, but will begin highlighting suppliers they work with that adopt the ACT label.
    - iv. Through Thermo Fisher, Gibco for cell cultures is almost on board with the ACT label, so [customers should encourage and request ACT labeling.](#)
    - v. Kudos to University of Virginia! their RFP for R&D is asking suppliers to have the ACT label. [Alison will share the language.](#)
    - vi. MGL hired a graphic designer to put together materials that purchasers are asking for. Drafts will be available later this month.
    - vii. [ACTION ITEM: Continue to encourage suppliers to adopt ACT label - let us know how you are doing this by posting on the google folder for ACT.](#)
  - c. Ilyssa is working with supply chain to modify the survey (originally worked on by Allen and Star) to get more information on how interested end users are in ACT labeled products. Is this where we should be focusing our energy?
    - i. Should we begin putting out the call for future recognition at the next I2SL conference? Phil is happy to help us promote a call for nominations.
- 3. Cold Transport data collection update
  - a. ThermoFisher launched an alternative to Styrofoam coolers in December <https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/about-us/product-stewardship/ambient-shipping/recyclable-cold-chain-packaging.html>.
    - i. Intention is to phase out foam entirely, but started with antibodies. Patented product; will license out.
    - ii. Allison says that another company is developing an alternative, so there will be another alternative on the market soon.
    - iii. Thermo is not spreading the word on this, so our WG should promote it if we can. [ACTION ITEM: WG members are encouraged to reach out to scientists or procurement scientific sourcing managers to find out if anyone has received these on campus, and asking them for their feedback and to fill out the ThermoFisher survey on the website link. Christina G will share her email template with the group for internal outreach.](#)
      - 1. From Christina G:  
**As promised, here's what I've sent our campus scientists and our CU System Procurement rep. Message to scientists is in the newsletter below, and here's what went to procurement:**

*Also, I wanted to share with you, in case you hadn't heard, that Thermo Fisher has come out with an all-paper/cardboard shipping cooler (no Styrofoam) that they are starting to use for some of their cold shipments! See details [here](#) and [here](#). CU Green Labs hopes to get our hands on one to see what it's all about, and to start getting feedback from our campus scientists about what they think. It would be great to reduce the amount of Styrofoam coming out of labs. There are tradeoffs with this too, certainly. Just wanted to make you aware, since you are in a position to commend Thermo for their efforts and let others know that they are trying this strategy. It is great to see companies trying to be more sustainable when they can, in a real way.*

Ilyssa will contact Rachael Relph of Thermo Fisher about this and try to get more information.

- b. Christina Greever outlined the links that she put on the Google drive that she has found with studies and articles on foam coolers and ice/gel packs, noting that getting information on gel pack recycling/reuse programs is difficult.
- c. Jen B has been in contact with Amy Preble at UNC. At UNC, Fisher Scientific implemented a gel pack recycling program as part of the contract for the scientific supply store room. Ilyssa will ask Rachael Relph at Fisher about this, and we might want to invite her and Amy Preble at UNC to join a call and talk about the program.
- d. Christine Alencar mentioned the new MedLine glove recycling program, where they claim to be using nitrile as fuel. Very little information exists, and she is trying to get more information.
- e. Ilyssa added a place on the [EPS #6...](#) Google Doc to add questions we want asked of manufacturers that we can be asking when we all discuss this with our suppliers, and can share answers to.
- f. **ACTION ITEM:** Please continue to post photos of challenges and successes with Styrofoam coolers to the [google folder](#), also add any links to the [google doc](#) with info regarding data on environmental impact or alternatives.

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## February 20, 2019 4:00 PM I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Notes

### Attendees:

Guest - Rachael Relph, manages Greener Products program at Thermo Fisher Scientific (TFS). Invited to talk about the new paper cooler introduced late 2018.

LDWG - Ilyssa Gordon (Cleveland Clinic), Kelly Weisinger (Emory), Star Scott (UGA), Christina Greever (CU Boulder), Jennifer Bellew (MIT), Phil Wirdzek (I2SL), Maya Camhi (Athersis)

Agenda: Cold Transport Discussion with guest Rachael Relph from ThermoFisher

Call notes: The following is a brief summary of our discussion. Working group Members can access the detailed call Notes by contacting Kelly or Ilyssa.

Ilyssa gave an introduction to the LDWG and our focus on cold storage, trying to divert EPS foam coolers and gel/ice packs. A preferred term for this is “cold chain shipments”. Rachael discussed with the group and answered questions related to the motivation for finding an EPS alternative, information on the paper cooler and scaling implementation, and related aspects of cold chain shipping. Phil raised the possibility of a broader conversation including industry competitors.

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### **March 28, 2019 I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Notes**

Attendees: Ilyssa Gordon (Cleveland Clinic), Kelly Weisinger (Emory), Star Scott (UGA), Christina Greever (CU Boulder), Christine Alencar (UVa), Jen Ballew (MIT), Allen Doyle, Phil Wirdzek

Agenda:

1. TABLED FOR FUTURE MEETING Cold storage solutions – please review to discuss - <https://www.epsindustry.org/eps-sustainability/life-cycle-analysis>
2. Animal Bedding Composting Report project
3. I2SL Meeting Planning

Call notes: [Action Items highlighted in blue](#)

#### 3. I2SL Meeting Planning -

we have a panel slot - re-review background of our group, current situation nationally, and group member case studies

#### UGA

- lab specific waste audit - highlights how much could be diverted
- county teacher re-use store for lab equipment/glassware - free to teachers, otherwise landfilled
- animal bedding composting; bioconversion facility on site

#### CU Boulder

- Animal bedding composting - exciting, growing; will be discussed at the I2SL CU Boulder Day
- Lab brown glass - not new
- No new creative diversion programs; also CG will be leaving CUB by then
- struggling with ice pack re-use program
- Ongoing conversation about KC RightCycle; VWR logistics problem with pick ups.

Side bar: Duke VWR are doing a glove recycling program... could LDWG propose to review the program/pilot?

MIT

- has a LCA going on for glove recycling - has been going on since 2017 - has been challenging to get detailed data for analysis, especially from the recycling companies.; plan to finish by this spring.
- waste audit for labs planned

UVa

- has an almost zero waste animal care facility - including glove recycling and animal bedding
- Constantly asked about what to do with EPS - created a polystyrene task force; no local vendor
- has a recycling warehouse - office supplies - free to all
- Mers program - similar for hospital supplies to reuse - by staff, community , and then sent off to overseas donation

Sidebar - MedLine is turning gloves into fuel - new program

Plan for Panel:

UVa, MIT, UGa, CUB

EPS, Glove recycling, local creative diversion, waste audits

**ACTION ITEM: Kelly & Ilyssa will discuss further and refine plan, time allotment, etc.**

## 2. Animal Bedding Composting Project/Case Study planning

-Emory will have time this summer

- how to do a group case study

- process involved, major stakeholders, composting facility partner, EH&S perspective, waste mgmt perspective, financials, logistics, transportation, environmental impacts - everyone reports in these categories - compile into white paper/identify and highlight best practices

**ACTION ITEM: Christine, Christina, Kelly, Star will discuss separately**

I2SL - Phil has offered to help share our work with local I2SL Chapters.

Other: Ilyssa Shared update on Sustainability at TF

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## May 16, 2019 I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Notes

Attendees: Ilyssa Gordon (Cleveland Clinic), Kelly Weisinger (Emory), Jen Ballew (MIT), Star Scott (UGA), Christina Greever (CU Boulder), Barbara Petkus (CU Boulder) Allison Paradise, Kathleen Brady, Allen Doyle, Phil Wirdzek

Call notes: [Action Items highlighted in blue](#)

AGENDA

1. Cold storage solutions – please review to discuss\_- <https://www.epsindustry.org/eps-sustainability/life-cycle-analysis>
2. I2SL Meeting – panel and ACT label recognition planning
3. Open Discussion and Idea sharing on Landfill Diversion in Labs

## ACT label recognition

- MGL will recommend the manufacturer recognize again this year
- For suppliers, 2 categories: 1) someone who has made significant advancements; 2) someone who is newly adopting ACT label or who hasn't been recognized yet
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Allison will help craft the questions for figuring out significant advancements
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Let Ilyssa know if you want to participate in the small group that works on the 2019 ACT label recognition. This group will meet again in early June to develop the call for nominations and selection process.

## Polystyrene

- Maine ban: Star Scott wrote Maine about their recent ban on polystyrene. They wrote back and said they used the public health angle to get it done. Advice was no matter what happens, never use the word Styrofoam. Maine started with food takeout containers, but hopes to expand it to more applications after 2020
- Star remembers Rachael Relph saying that ThermoFisher developed cardboard cooler because some customers would not accept EPS. **ACTION ITEM:** Allison is going to ask Rachael if she could clarify and share which customers that was, so we can learn from them.
- The lack of recycling markets for EPS negates the energy efficiency benefit of the light weight of the materials
- There seems to be a lack of a business case for different options for cold storage transport. Would I2SL be interested in launching a business case study competition for alternatives?
- Talked about the goal of putting together a portfolio of materials that help us paint the picture of the polystyrene problem, to aid us in conversations with stakeholders about eliminating or innovating beyond EPS

Ilyssa suggested that lab sustainability people think about submitting a presentation related to labs at future CleanMed conferences, because there aren't many sessions pertaining to labs.

We all welcomed Barbara Petkus as the new CU Green Labs coordinator, and wished Christina Greever well as she leaves that role. Christina wants to stay on the email list for a little bit longer until she knows what her next steps will be.

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## July 11, 2019 I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group Notes

Attendees: Ilyssa Gordon (Cleveland Clinic), Kelly Weisinger (Emory), Jen Ballew (MIT), Christina Greever (CU Boulder), Barbara Petkus (CU Boulder), Kathleen Brady, Amy Rowland (ERG), Star Scott (UGA), Christine Alencar (UVA)

### AGENDA:

1. Update on ACT recognition at I2SL
2. Update on Animal bedding compost project
3. Update on I2SL Meeting Panel
4. Continue discussion on cold transport solutions

Call notes: [Action Items highlighted in blue](#)

1. ACT recognition at I2SL - smaller group (Phil, Kelly, Ilyssa, Allison, Kathleen B.) met in June and discussed details. There will be two categories for recognition:

1. Substantial progress (may have been recognized previously)
2. New on the scene, motivated

Nomination is nearly ready and will be open on I2SL website for several weeks. **ACTION ITEMS:** Group to finalize the Nomination blurb - needs to reflect more details. Kathleen will then post to I2SL Website, close on 8/8, could potentially extend a week until 8/15. Plan to meet before 9/1 to discuss nominations and choose recognizees. ( will send doodle poll for that meeting); PLEASE nominate yourselves or others, and share the Nomination Announcement with everyone!!

2. Animal bedding compost: Collecting information: template form being filled out by July 31 to capture the same type of info from everyone at the 4 institutions; plan to start writing in August. Hope to have it finished/published before the fall conference. **ACTION ITEMS:** 4 institutions please return data collection to Kelly by 7/31. Discuss with I2SL what publication looks like and templates available.

3. Plan for Panel: MIT will be there - represented by Whitney instead of Jen.

UVa, MIT, UGA, CUB - maybe (will let us know)

EPS, Glove recycling, local creative diversion, waste audits

Abstract has been submitted to I2SL and accepted for the conference.

**ACTION ITEM:** Panelists start thinking about/working on the presentation. Be on the lookout for an email to check in on your progress and discussion.

Time slot for the conference is Monday 11-12:30.

4. Discussion on cold transport solutions

Update from Allen on EPS Business Case Competition 2020: "My report is I'm excited about the allies I found at GA tech and the packaging alliance for the cooler business case challenge. Hope to have a meeting at the last week of July, and that Christine Alencar and her EP task force may be a part of that group, and maybe a procurement officer from UVA, too." **ACTION ITEM:** Please let Allen know if you are interested in being involved with this. - check your emails for details from him.

Vericool packaging <http://www.vericoolpackaging.com>- showing as 100% recyclable/biodegradable. Christine knows a tech company lab called Indoor Biotechnologies that uses this product - will ask: what used for, what made from, what to do with it when done

ThermoCooler - Ilyssa has one that was re-used; others have not really seen them around; Christine will check with EPS team at UVa to see if they are around; From May meeting: "Star remembers Rachael Relph saying that ThermoFisher developed cardboard cooler because some customers would not accept EPS. **ACTION ITEM:** Allison is going to ask Rachael if she could clarify and share which customers that was, so we can learn from them." **ACTION ITEM:** Ilyssa will check in with Allison on this

Other Items of Interest:

Ilyssa: film plastic recycling thoughts, may be going to waste to energy facilities; lightweight, low value

Star: Ecogrief, ecoanxiety, ecodespair on AASHE website - offer a workshop for sustainability professionals to deal with these stressors.